

## Wood bleaching

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I know there are lots of super paint techniques around, but sometimes just bleaching wood looks really good and also makes the wood look fresh. I have two African wood carved people in my garden - when I got them they were stained brown and were just lost in the foliage, so I bleached them. They look terrific standing there now. Here's how to do it. You will need Hydrogen Peroxide. Hydrogen Peroxide can sting and burn, especially if you have the smallest cut on your finger - believe me - it really does BURN! You must wear gloves, your oldest clothes and protect the surrounding area with newspapers and black bags. I would also use safety glasses. Use an old brush to apply an even coat of bleach to the wood. Of course, you must remove any old stain, varnish or paint first. Apply the first application and leave it to dry. You can always do a second or third application, but not too many, otherwise the wood will start to look grey and lifeless. If you want to stop the action, using equal parts of vinegar and water.